GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management,
Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai- 400 032
No. DMU/2020/CR. 92/DisM-1, Dated:4th May, 2020

ORDER

Steps to be taken for compliance of extant instructions regarding COVID-19 in the State while making arrangements for conducting biennial election of the Maharashtra Legislative Council being held on 21st May, 2020

Ref: 1 Election Commission of India, New Delhi Press Note No. ECI/PN/35/2020 dt. 01/05/2020
2 Government of Maharashtra, Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai Order No. DMU/2020/CR.92/DisM-1, dt. 2nd May, 2020
3 Government of Maharashtra, Medical Education & Drugs Department Order dated COVID-2020/prakra 135/ Prasha 2, dated 2nd May, 2020

Whereas, the Election Commission of India has declared the programme for conducting Biennial Election to the Maharashtra Legislative Council by the members of Legislative Assembly (MLAs) on 21st May 2020 and as per the Election Commission of India's directions, Government of Maharashtra has nominated Shri Saurabh Vijay, Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department, as Nodal Officer to ensure compliance of extant instructions regarding COVID-19 during the election process.

Whereas, the Government of Maharashtra, Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation, Mantralaya, Mumbai has issued revised guidelines vide Order No. DMU/2020/CR.92/DisM-1, dt. 2nd May, 2020 regarding measures to be taken for containment of COVID-19 in the State, based on the risk profiling, areas of all districts in the State are identified as Red (Hotspots), Green and Orange zones.

Whereas, in exercise of the powers, conferred under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the undersigned, in his capacity as Chairperson, State Executive Committee, hereby issues following directions to ensure the smooth conduct of the Maharashtra Legislative Council Elections-2020:

1. Returning Officer shall ensure necessary precautions like observance of social distancing norms, installation of thermal scans, use of masks, provision of hand sanitizers, are taken during the conduct of election processes – filling nominations, scrutiny of nominations, polling and counting.

2. The 5% restrictions on attendance of staff contained in the Para 7 (ii) g of order No. U/2020/CR.92/DisM-1, dt. 2nd May, 2020, issued by Department of Revenue and Forest, Disaster Management, Relief and Rehabilitation,

Mantralaya, Mumbai, shall not be applicable to the office of Returning Officer, MLC Elections – 2020, Vidhan Bhavan, Mumbai. Returning Officer may decide staff requirement and issue orders accordingly. The Staff so required for the conduct of elections shall be deemed to be the staff required for the essential services for the purposes of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 and the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

3. Returning Officer shall also be the competent authority to issue passes to the candidates, their election agents and accompanying persons at the time of filing nominations, scrutiny of nominations or its withdrawal to the minimum possible, as per Statutory requirements.

4. For the candidates, voters, staff, persons related to election process residing in the Green, Orange and Red Zone, including Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR)/ /Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) /Malegaon Municipal Corporation/Pimpri-Chinchwad Municipal Corporation (PCMC), inter-district movement, is allowed only for the purpose of this election in 4 wheelers (1+2) including taxis. Similarly, travel of candidates/voters above age of 65 years is permitted for the purpose of this election only.

5. All District Collectors shall facilitate the travel of all the candidates and voters for the purpose of this election and prepare SOPs in this regard in consultation with the Public Health Department. The same may be shared with the Returning Officer with a copy to Chief Electoral Officer and Nodal Officer.

6. On the day of election, movement and parking arrangements for the vehicles of the voters, candidates and the staff shall be made by the Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Mumbai.

7. Director General of Information and Public Relations (DGIPR), Government of Maharashtra shall make all necessary arrangements for publicity of the election related news for which suitable agency (ANI)/persons may be finalized to take feed of the programme and circulate to the media on regular basis.

8. Above directions/ relaxations will be applicable only till 26th May, 2020 or date before which election shall be completed, whichever is earlier.

BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF MAHARASHTRA

(Ajoy Mehta)
Chief Secretary
Government of Maharashtra

Copy to:

1. Principal Secretary to Hon. Governor of Maharashtra, Mumbai
2. Hon'ble Chairman, Maharashtra Legislative Council
3. Hon'ble Speaker, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly
4. Principal Secretary to Hon. Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra
5. Secretary to Hon. Deputy Chief Minister, Government of Maharashtra
6. Private Secretary to Leader of Opposition, Legislative Council/Assembly
7. Private Secretaries to All Ministers/State Ministers
8. Under Secretary to Election Commission of India, New Delhi
9. Chief Election Officer, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
10. Secretary, State Election Commission, Mumbai
11. All Additional Chief Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of Government of Maharashtra
12. Director General of Police, Maharashtra State, Mumbai
13. Principal Secretary, Public Health Department
14. Secretary, Higher & Technical Education Department, Mumbai
15. Secretary, Maharashtra Legislative Assembly, Mumbai and Returning Officer
16. All Divisional Commissioners in the State
17. All Municipal Commissioners in the State
18. All Police Commissioners in the State
19. All District Collectors in the state
20. All Superintendents of Police in the State
21. Select File.